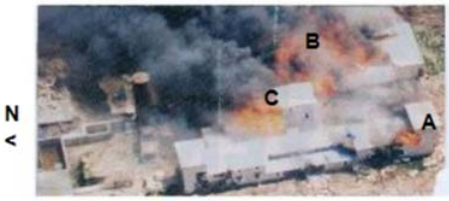
THE APRIL 19, 1993 FIRE

The Branch Davidian fire on April 19th, 1993 was probably the most photographed massacre in history. Aerial photographs were taken from a hovering helicopter, while a circling airplane took heat scans, Forward Looking InfraRed scans, FLIR for short.

Look carefully at the heat scan below. It shows the first heat plumes of two of the three separate simultaneous fires that broke out at noon. Note that fire A is on the second floor in the southwest corner of the building and that fire B is lit in the rubble of the gym at the back of the building.

PHOTO OF THREE SIMULTANEOUS FIRES SET FOR MAXIMUM LOSS OF LIFE.

HEAT SCAN SHOWING FIRST HEAT PLUMES OF THE FIRES ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER (A) AND IN THE GYM AREA (B).



Now look at the photo. First note the second floor fire on the southwest front corner of the building (A). The wind was blowing at about 30 mph from the southwest on the day of the fire. Now note the two fires at the back of the building, the huge fire near the southeast corner of the building (B), and the slightly smaller fire north of the tower (C). Finally, along the ground floor front, note the air vents that tanks had punched into the building.

The pictures the government took the day of the fire, combined with parts of the ruin that survived the May 12, 1993 bulldozing tell the story. Remember the rubble of the gym where the fire B started. Here the tank that created that rubble is displayed with incendiary device pits in the concrete foundation of that section of the gym. Those incendiary device pits line up exactly with the first heat plumes of fire B. I paced it off from remaining landmarks and the aerial pictures.

PICTURE OF TANK DESTROYING GYM MOMENTS BEFORE GYM FIRE (B ABOVE) BROKE OUT

INCENDIARY DEVICE PITS IN CONCRETE OF GYM SLAB AT SITE OF GYM FIRE (B ABOVE)

I lettered the sign amidst the burned holes in the concrete in 1996 after another activist gave me copies of the aerial pictures shown above. It says, "Government infrared scans show the first heat plumes rising from these incendiary device pits," and refers to the pavilion that was torn down in 1997 by Robert Arnold, an agent of Koresh's survivors and possibly the government.

On the ground, NBC was up on a scaffold taking video from the main press area at the intersection of Farm Road 2491 and Radio Tower Road. They were south of the church. CBS was shooting video up on a scissor lift in Alma Moore's yard on Old Mexia Road west of the church. CNN was northwest of the church on a platform on the Dreyer farm near the intersection of Double EE Ranch Road and Old Mexia Road. Because these networks were elevated they had a good view of the yard and the ground floor of the building. Below are two stills from the Linda Thompson video, "Waco, The Big Lie." Linda bought the media feeds for her video. (See below.)

The tank is backing out of a hole it punched in the building. If it backed out in a straight line, the flamethrower just dying down in its nozzle could easily have lit the fire north of the tower (C). The man walking away from the building (circled) was not arrested. I saw him live on TV the day of the fire. He came out of a second story window just upwind of the southwest front corner fire (A). He stepped onto the roof of the one-story section at the front of the building in full view of the media. He lay down on the roof immediately and peeled off a coverall, then jumped off the roof and walked away. The coverall he left can be seen on the roof where he left it (see picture above). His behavior is inexplicable unless his coverall said FBI on the front and back, and he did not want the media to identify him.

TANK WITH FLAMING NOZZLE LEAVING DINING AREA JUST BEFORE OUTBREAK OF THAT FIRE

SUSPECTED ARSONIST OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER FIRE WHO WALKED AWAY WITHOUT BEING ARRESTED (CIRCLED)

That finishes what I have to say about the fire. I leave you to form your own conclusions as I formed mine.

Amo Paul Bishop Roden